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Annual Meeting of the American Colonization Society.

The adjourned Annual Meeting of this Society, was held in the Hall of the House of Representatives, on Saturday evening, the 20th inst. when the Hon. Henry Clay, one of the Vice Presidents of the Society, took the chair.

A letter from the *President* of the Society, JUDGE WASHINGTON, was read, expressing regret, that indisposition prevented his attendance. The Rev. Dr. LAURIE then opened the meeting with prayer.

The Rev. Mr. GURLEY announced as present the following delegates:

Hon. S. BELL, from the Auxiliary State Society, New-Hampshire.

Hon. HORATIO SEYMOUR, }
Hon. JOHN MATTOCKS, } do. Vermont.

Hon. SAMUEL LATHROP, Hampton County, Mass.

Hon. J. WOODS, Butler County, Ohio.

Hon. J. C. WRIGHT, Steubenville do. Ohio.

Hon. JOSEPH JOHNSON, Wheeling do. Virginia.

VOL. II.

Hon. ELISHA WHITTLESEY, Trumbull and Portage Co. Ohio.

Hon. W. McLEAN, Piqua and Troy Counties, Ohio.

Hon. JOHN WURTS, Auxiliary C. S. of Pennsylvania.

Hon. J. LAWRENCE, Washington County, Pennsylvania.

Hon. J. S. STEVENSON, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. CLAY then resigned the Chair to the Hon. R. RUSH, another of the Vice Presidents of the Society.

The following resolutions, submitted at the meeting on the 13th inst. and which were adopted on that occasion, were read:

By Hon. S. VAN RENSSELAER,

“Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be given to the Board of Managers, for their unremitted attention to its objects during the year, and for the Report just read, and that they be requested to print the same.”

By Hon. Mr. WEEMS:

“Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be presented to the various Auxiliary Associations, who, during the last year, have given their aid to its objects, and that they be respectfully and earnestly invited to co-operate still further, in accomplishing the design of the Institution.”

The following resolution offered by the Hon. Mr. POWELL, of Virginia, at the meeting on Saturday, the 13th inst. was then considered and adopted:

[When offering this resolution, Mr. POWELL had borne testimony to a great change in his opinion of the Society. He said he had at first looked upon it as calculated to produce evil instead of good. He did not think it necessary to explain the manner in which the change had been effected; but he now felt convinced that this Society promised to be the instrument of great and beneficial results.]

“Resolved, That this Society has viewed with pleasure the formation of Auxiliary State Societies in several of the States of this Union, with subordinate Associations in the Counties of those States, and express the hope that a similar system may be adopted, as far as practicable, in all the States.”

On motion of the Hon. Mr. LAWRENCE, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev. Clergy, of all denominations, for the warm interest evinced on their part in the objects it has in view, and that they be respectfully and earnestly requested to take up collections for its aid, on the next Anniversary of our National Independence.

Rev. Wm. Hawley, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, submitted the following preamble and resolution :

Whereas, some of the Masonic Lodges of our country, in the exercise of that charity which so pre-eminently distinguishes the Institution of Free Masonry, have generously come forward and liberally contributed to the funds of the American Colonization Society : Therefore,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be presented to those Lodges that have already commenced the benevolent work of aiding this Society, in not only providing an asylum for the Free People of Colour in Africa, but also of greatly contributing to the abolition of the inhuman Slave Trade, and the introduction of Christianity and Civilization into that wretched and benighted land; and that other Masonic Institutions, and the fraternity generally, throughout the United States, be invited to co-operate in this important, patriotic, and truly benevolent object.

Mr. Knapp, of Boston, Mass. then rose and addressed the meeting. He said that he was induced to second the motion, believing that if it were carried into effect, it would be of great benefit to the Society. During the last season, an agent of this Society travelled into that part of the country in which he (Mr. K.) resided, with the design of diffusing there a knowledge of the objects of the Society, and of invoking assistance from the benevolent and patriotic. By the means of the pulpit and the press, the agent called the attention of the community to this great concern. To almost all, it was a novel subject. True, it had been heard of through the public prints; yet, its objects and progress were not known, and the people were generally ignorant of the principles upon which it was founded. The agent pursued his labours with zeal and assiduity, aided by the few who had conceived just notions of the benevolent project; and there were some who were ready with their voices and with their purses to advance it, convinced that the Society were labouring in the cause of humanity; but with the great mass of the people, time and deliberation were required, before they could be enlisted in the good cause. Among the many means adopted by the friends of this Society in New England, for the attainment of their objects, one was an application to the Masonic Lodges. Mr. K. said he was a member of the fraternity, and with his brethren, was desirous that the subject should be considered in all its bearings, before any effective steps should be taken, and that this deliberation should be had without bias or prejudice; for Masons, although ever anxious to do good whenever a fair opportunity offered itself, yet, were not infected with that sickly sensibility which is forever painting in odious colours the horrors of negro slavery; crying up a crusade against the holders of slaves, and ready to oppose them in any way, without looking behind them or before for example or argument. They did deliberate. They considered the past and the present, and cast many an inquiring

glance into the darkened mists of the future. They knew that, at one period, slavery existed throughout the whole of the thirteen States of our early Confederacy: they knew that where slavery had been abolished it had operated to the advantage of the masters, not of the slaves: they saw this fact most strikingly illustrated in the case of the free negroes of Boston. If, on the anniversary celebrated by the Free People of Colour, of the day on which slavery was abolished, they looked abroad, what did they see? Not freemen, in the enjoyment of every attribute of freedom, with the stamp of liberty upon their brows! No, sir; they saw a ragged set, crying out liberty! for whom liberty had nothing to bestow, and whose enjoyment of it was but in name. He spoke of the great body of the blacks; there were some few honourable exceptions, he knew, which only proved what might be done for all.

What then was to be done? They saw that a great, a formidable evil existed; they knew something should be done; but how to attack that evil, how to act at once with propriety and effect, were the questions. They knew that the feelings of the South were to be regarded. At the East, they hated slavery; but they loved union and harmony more; nor did they desire to compromise the latter in their endeavours to remove the former; and in any efforts to ameliorate the condition of the degraded African, they did sincerely desire that the rights and feelings of all might be regarded—and that no infringement of the social compact should be involved; they wished even more—that no suspicion of such an infringement should be entertained, fully sensible of the delicacy of the subject. Under these circumstances, the fraternity stopped to inquire and to deliberate; and he was made the humble instrument of that inquiry. And, sir, (said Mr. K.) I must candidly say that my prejudices were strong, but my inquiry terminated in the most satisfactory conviction, not only that the objects of this Society were wise and benevolent, but that they were even worthy of the assistance of the citizens of the South, as well as other parts of the country, to whom they promised vast benefits; and although a few individuals of the South may entertain suspicions, I trust that they will all ultimately be dispelled. I looked upon the many evils of slavery with the aversion of a freeman; but I saw also that the evils were not confined to those who are virtually slaves. I saw that to those persons on whom circumstances had bestowed freedom, it operated as a curse, when they had not the means of obtaining knowledge, and of giving scope to the talents God had given them by nature. Take the greater part of those who had received their freedom by clemency, policy, or accident, or were born free, what did they know of freedom? What sense had they of its blessings? They were still, whilst in its nominal enjoyment, the same despised, degraded beings. Ignorance was their's from infancy: they had no social or political relations in the community—of which they were not members, but excrescences—thrown from a state of dependence and submission, abroad upon society; standing forth in odious distinctness from those who would not acknowledge them as fellow citizens; without a root in the soil from which they sprung, their liberty was statutory,

and looked well in the volume of laws, and in the code of the rights of man; but it was without essence and worthless, because it was without knowledge.

It is sometimes said by the desponding, that slavery is too great an evil ever to be remedied. The civilized world, or the European part of it, once made the struggle, and after centuries of religious exertion, succeeded. For two hundred years slavery had been abolished in most of the nations which professed the Christian religion, when the Portuguese commenced the accursed traffic again, to assist their numerous colonies. France and England had not moral energy enough to refrain, but followed the example to meet their rivals in the sugar and coffee market. It was no part of the calculations of our progenitors to cultivate the lands by slaves. The first were driven on our soil by accident; and in an evil hour, the indolence of the people prevailed over their sense of justice. The magnitude of the evil was not foreseen at that moment. In my opinion, it may be cured in less time than it has been growing up. Open once the facilities of emigration—show an object for it, and like any other business, it will increase to any extent we may wish. The natural world has yielded her impossibilities, as they were thought, to the efforts of enlightened man. Why should not he be as successful in the moral? A fair and permanent road is now built over the Alps, the passage of which was once considered as sufficient to give immortality to the successful adventurer. Inveterate diseases have yielded to skill and perseverance; political evils are vanishing before the statesman and economist; and why should the task this Society have undertaken, be held in greater dread than others?

Sir, this Society has grown up from the immediate spot where these evils most abound—from the slave holding States. The originators of this Society saw the danger of this growing ill, and enquired how it might be alleviated at the present, and obliterated by degrees. They looked around them with the humane endeavour to find a place where the liberty of the African might be real—where it might be no longer the emptiest of mockeries: for what is freedom without the emancipation of intellect? Where should this holy spot be found? What land should give freedom to this degraded race? They could not hope to fix a colony in America. We wanted no nation of blacks here; and had they been fixed on some of our uncultivated lands of the remote West, they would have been in danger from red men and white. They would be distant from either, and abused by both. This was first thought of by some; but those who saw how rapidly the Western regions were filling up with a white population, wisely argued that it would not do to send the colony there. The Society then turned their eyes upon Africa. And where should they fix the place of African regeneration, but in Africa? To many, the very name of Africa conveys an idea of indistinct horror; in the imagination, that word is often associated with all that is fearful in nature. It implies endless forests, into which man never penetrated; vast deserts, whose sands are eternally tossed by the whirlwind; sweeping torrents, spreading devastation, poisonous serpents, darting upon the venturous traveller; furious beasts, and every wild and formidable terror.

But, sir, this is entirely a fallacy. Africa is the only continent which derives its name from itself—from the character of its soil and climate. The word implies a horn of plenty, or an ear of corn; and Africa is the most fertile country on the globe. It has more sea coast than any other of the continents of the Eastern Hemisphere. Its climate affords every delicacy which nature produces; there was not a luxury on the table of a Roman epicure, which Africa did not yield. The coffee, the tea plant, and the sugar cane, find there a congenial soil, and yield rich harvests; and that the soil will produce grain in abundance, is not to be doubted. It is an established rule of nature, that where man exists, that which is necessary for his support shall be produced.

It had been said that establishing this Colonization Society was merely a method adopted to get rid of these People, and that as such it would doubtless succeed, as they would go to Africa and die, and thus the object would be effected; but this is opposed to philosophy and experience; for it is a general rule, that every climate to which man becomes acclimated, is equally healthy. And, for proof of the nature of an African climate, witness the bones and muscles, and the hardy frames of the natives. Why then, it may be asked, cannot this Colony support itself, if it is so well situated as to soil and climate? I believe, the history of man shows us no instance, in which an early Colony supported itself. How was it with the two great Colonies of this country? Did they support themselves? Did Jamestown go on in its early period, without assistance? No, sir;—that great State, which has produced so many Statesmen and Orators, was in its incipient stages, sustained, and, I may say, established, by courtesy: for, it will be remembered, that the Government of England granted a lottery for the benefit of the Colonists; and, without that aid, notwithstanding the bravery of Smith, and the constant perseverance of the settlers, they must have failed in their endeavors to found a great and wealthy State. I will now come nearer home, and consider the condition of the fathers of New England. The feeble Colonists of Plymouth could never have sustained themselves without other aid than their own. They never could have braved, with success, the perils of their early settlement, unassisted. And this leads me again to speak of the effect of climate upon the first Colonists of a new country. Where were the first settlers of Jamestown before the four seasons had rolled over their new habitations? They were in their graves. And most of those persecuted men, who first stood upon the rock of Plymouth, were numbered with the dead, ere the next December's sun shone sickly upon the iron bound coast.

Those early Colonists were a sacrifice to public good. They were destined to make way for other offerings on the altar of enterprize. This is not unusual. The history of all times is full of instances. A thousand causes which might be mentioned, lead to it; privations, over exertions, and want of a thorough knowledge of the climate, are among them. Other reasons come to us in a formal array against the endeavour to plant a Colony in Africa. It is said, that the mind of the people of Nigritia and other parts of Africa is

not susceptible of high cultivation : that the Africans are a stupid race, whose nature, as was said of Caliban, was such, "that nurture would not stick to it." But, sir, this is the most unjust, as well as the most futile method of argument. As well might you judge of the fleet Arabian courser, by some poor hack horse which you should meet on your way to the Capitol, worn down under the lash, and feebly and unwillingly dragging his burthen, like a raw-boned Rozinante, as judge of the powers of the African mind, by the miserable, degraded wretches who dwell, shunned and contemned, among us. Sir, facts and history are opposed to this habit of disparaging the intellect of the sable sons of Africa. Some as great men as any nation ever produced, were born in that country.

I might name many whom history and their own works have immortalized. Cyprian, St. Augustine, and Tertullian, were Africans ; and Terence, as sweet a bard as ever strung the lyre to song, was an African. Need I name Hanno and Hannibal ? Or need I remind you, that it is contended by some writers of no common fame, that Africa is the native land of the arts ; and that the science of Algebra had there its birth ? With these details I will not detain you ; but I will come down to our own times, and to our own country. And, if I am rightly informed, there lives among the Colonists now at Liberia, a man who was born in Africa, whose strength of intellect and elevation of character, might be the just cause of pride to any country. In the West Indies, there have been numerous instances which clearly prove, that the African character, even in a state of subjection, is capable of high improvement ; setting aside all the stories of Threefinger'd Jack, or Cudjoe, in the mountains of Jamaica. But, sir, in my country—a land not destitute of poets, as we believe,—an African woman, the well known Phillis Wheatley, has produced a volume of poetry, which, while it displays want of education, and was written at hours stolen from the labours of slavery, and was the production of a mind weighed down by the shackles of servitude—for almost every poem commences with a lamentation of her enslaved and abject condition—stands almost at the head of the poetry of the age in which it was produced. I speak of this new world, in which poetry had not, at that time, kept pace with other branches of improvement. From a full survey of the African character, I hold it false to say, that the mind of those born in that country is not susceptible of high advancement.

The principles upon which this Colony was established, are such as must ensure it the approval of the wise and the good. Other Colonies have been established for ambitious or commercial purposes. They have grown from factories to forts, and have followed up trade by conquest. Treachery succeeded confidence until those who first implored succour and protection, became masters of those who permitted them to get foot-hold in their country. The histories of the Indies sufficiently prove the assertion. But the Society have not done so. They have gone quietly, only defended by the holiness of their cause and the purity of their intentions, to the aborigines, with offers to purchase their territory ; they have gone forth to establish peace, comfort,

happiness, liberty, and independence; and not only these, but to make a stand on that coast, where a stand was never before effectually made, for the introduction of Christianity and Religion. And, as it has been justly said, that America established the first Lancasterian school to teach mankind their rights—this Society has thrown a slender branch of that school of the rights of man upon the coast of Africa. The natives will see what civilized men are, and from them will learn science, religion, and civilization.

The time was, when the torch of religion, and the lamp of science, shed their mingled rays over the People of Africa. The torch and the lamp have gone out, and darkness has usurped the place of light. But, we shall relume them again, and shed on the darkened minds of the People, the renovated lustre of Christianity and Civilization. Such were the thoughts of the projectors of this great design. This Society remembered that the Church of Christ was once prosperous in Africa. In one of the councils of the Church in that country, 277 Bishops, it is said, took their seats;—shall this country remain forever in barbarity? Should not every one who now calls upon the name of the true God, be engaged to re-build his kingdom in this desolation? But how was all this to be effected? for they had not only to establish a Colony in a wild and distant country, but they had to combat the prejudices—the honest long cherished prejudices of their countrymen, tenfold more difficult because they existed around our fire-sides: Ten-fold more difficult to conquer than a common enemy, because the conquest must be achieved by gentle means, by untiring exertions, and by kindly endeavours to convince and persuade. This great object, I sincerely believe, is well nigh effected. It must be brought about by a simultaneous movement of all those great engines which controul the moral influences in this country. The pulpit, that great lever of the moral world, must be used as heretofore. The public presses must be resorted to; for letters, in this day of intelligence, soften asperities, conquer the prejudices, and assist in forming the opinions of all classes in the community. The Masonic Lodges in every part of the country, must be applied to, for assistance.—Their existence is permanent, and what they may be brought to do, will not be a mere momentary act of charity, but their liberality will increase, as the dictates of their understanding shall become more and more convinced of the importance of the undertaking, and when once the question of utility is fully established, no pains will be spared in using the true means to reach such desirable ends. The State Legislatures will, from these numerous sources, catch the song of benevolence and Christian enterprize, and extend it to the Hall of Congress. It will become a national object, beginning at the true foundation, from the disposition, the feelings, and the convictions of the People.—This is public opinion; not that transitory, volatile unanalyzed air, which is often taken for public sentiment, when it is nothing more than popular excitement. From the smallest beginnings have arisen the greatest affairs of the world. God-fido's preaching brought about the Crusades;—a hand full of wanderers settled Rome; and a single adventurous spirit taught Europe the way to the

Western Hemisphere; and who can say, but the exertions of a few individuals who conceived the plan of the Colonization Society may not be the foundation of an empire more enlightened than any time in his course has seen?

Sir, there is a glory in this subject which I love to dwell upon; there is a grandeur in the idea of carrying back the light to the East, whence we obtained it, which swells every bosom that throbs at the name of our country's greatness. The tide of empire and of intellect has been westward for centuries: and now let us flash back the rays of our glory and our liberty upon the darkened lands of the East. There that light will rise in strength and grandeur, brightening, by reflection, our country and its institutions. There is nothing visionary in this. Had you asked those who settled in Jamestown, whether they dared to dream that our country would, in this little space, rise to such a pitch of power and greatness as it now enjoys, they would have told you that hope alone was their's. The time may come when the darkness of Ethiopia and Mauritania shall have settled upon this land; and then we shall still have a name upon the earth, and live in the memory of that happy race, whose early steps this Society have guided, and who will have been trained up in the paths of religion and independence.

The time of doubt and fear is past, and we may confide in the result of the labors of this Society. Is it to be believed that a continent whose soil is the most fertile on earth, where every luxury grows spontaneously, and where the rivers roll upon golden sands, is destined to remain the abode of ignorance and superstition? No! In that land where now the rites of Moloch and the feasts of cannibals offend the merciful will of our Christian God, the religion which we profess shall spread its influence pure and undefiled; and the voice of thanks shall roll back to our country over the waste of waters. Let no man say this is visionary. It is well known with what satire and ridicule the anticipations of the good Dean Berkley of the glories of this Country, were treated both in prose and verse. The learned statesmen of that age, were amused at the prophecies of the enlightened enthusiast, when he sung that *westward the Star of Empire takes its way*.

One word more, and I have done. Sir, when we look directly before us and see a small beginning, a thousand objections are found which seem important, and which receive far more attention than they merit. It has been said that the Colony have shed blood. It is not denied; and I believe it was justified. It is justifiable to shed blood to sustain the cause of civilization and freedom; far more justifiable than to do it to sustain thrones and dominations. It was necessary on that foreign coast to establish for our Colony a character for firmness and bravery, which should awe those around them from aggression. That character has been established, and it will impress the natives with fear and respect. I understand that there are a number of native youths in the Seminary of the Colony. They will imbibe with the sciences which are taught them, a respect for the firmness, and an admiration of the justice of the Colony. These feelings and acquirements they will carry into the interior; and who can predict the vast extent of the connexions which may thus be formed, or the good that may thus be dispensed?

Sir, I have no doubt of the character of the Society; and if I had entertained any such doubt, I should have needed only to glance over the names which compose the list of members. Sir, in that list I find the names of men whose legal decisions have become the opinions of the intelligent, throughout our country. I find, also, the names of men, upon whose lips listening Senates have hung with rapture. Their fame is indelibly fixed on the tablets of our history; but their best and most permanent renown is recorded here. The fame of the patriot may be evanescent; but that of the philanthropist is permanent. The firmest memorial of a great man, is inscribed in the cause of benevolence. It is inscribed in tablets of flesh; it awakens the throb of gratitude in the hearts of men, which receive those living characters, and transmit them from generation to generation. Rise, then, ye statesmen! ye sages and ye orators! join all your efforts in this noble cause; and let the time quickly come when the deserts of Numidia and the sands of Barca shall rejoice in the light of liberty and religion, and learning and science spread widely over those benighted realms.

The resolution submitted by the Rev. Mr. HAWLEY, was then adopted.

Dr. LAURIE prefaced the following resolution with a few remarks.

Mr. President,

The resolution I am now to offer, is one which must approve itself to the understanding and to the good feelings of every individual who has marked the progress of the settlement at Liberia, from almost the period when the first band of Colonists arrived at Montserado, to the present hour: it is a resolution expressing the approbation, the thanks of this Society to Mr. Ashmun, the Colonial Agent, for the wisdom and zeal manifested by him, in conducting the affairs of the Colony.—I offer it without farther preamble.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be given to Mr. ASHMUN, the Colonial Agent, for the faithfulness, zeal, and ability with which he has discharged the duties of the trust reposed in him: which was adopted.

Mr. CLAY ROSE. I cannot (said he) withhold the expression of my congratulations to the Society on account of the very valuable acquisition which we have obtained in the eloquent gentleman from Boston, (Mr. KNAPP,) who has just favoured us with an address. He has told us of his original impressions, unfavourable to the object of the Society, and of his subsequent conversion. If the same industry, investigation and unbiassed judgment, which he and another gentleman, (Mr. POWELL,) who avowed at the last meeting of the Society, a similar change wrought in his mind, were carried, by the public at large, into the consideration of the plan of the Society, the conviction in its favour would be universal.

I have risen to submit a resolution, in behalf of which I would bespeak the favour of the Society. But before I offer any observations in its support, I must say that, whatever part I shall take in the proceedings of this Society,

whatever opinions or sentiments I may utter, they are exclusively my own. Whether they are worth any thing or not, no one but myself is at all responsible for them. I have consulted with no person out of this Society; and I have especially abstained from all communication or consultation with any one to whom I stand in any official relation. My judgment on the object of this Society, has been long since deliberately formed. The conclusions to which, after much and anxious consideration, my mind has been brought, have been neither produced nor refuted by the official station, the duties of which have been confided to me.

From the origin of this Society, every member of it has, I believe, looked forward to the arrival of a period, when it would become necessary to invoke the public aid in the execution of the great scheme which it was instituted to promote. Considering itself as the mere pioneer in the cause which it had undertaken, it was well aware that it could do no more than remove preliminary difficulties, and point out a sure road to ultimate success; and that the public only could supply that regular, steady, and efficient support, to which the gratuitous means of benevolent individuals would be found incompetent. My surprise has been, that the Society has been able so long to sustain itself, and to do so much upon the charitable contributions of good and pious and enlightened men, whom it has happily found in all parts of our country. But our work has so prospered, and grown under our hands, that the appeal to the power and resources of the public, should be no longer deferred. The resolution which I have risen to propose, contemplates this appeal. It is in the following words:—

Resolved, That the Board of Managers be empowered and directed, at such time or times as may seem to them expedient, to make respectful application to the Congress of the United States, and to the Legislatures of the different States, for such pecuniary aid, in furtherance of the object of this Society, as they may respectively be pleased to grant.

In soliciting the countenance and support of the Legislatures of the Union and the States, it is incumbent on the Society, in making out its case, to show, 1st. That it offers to their consideration a scheme which is practicable.— And 2d. That the execution of the practicable scheme, partial or entire, will be fraught with such beneficial consequences, as to merit the support which is solicited. I believe both points to be maintainable. 1st. It is now a little upwards of ten years, since a religious, amiable and benevolent resident* of this city, first conceived the idea of planting a Colony, from the United States,

* It has been, since the delivery of the Speech, suggested that the Rev. Robert Finley, of New Jersey, (who is also unfortunately dead,) contemplated the formation of a Society, with a view to the establishment of a Colony in Africa, and probably first commenced the project. It is quite likely that he did; and Mr. C. recollects seeing Mr. Finley, and consulting with him on the subject, about the period of the formation of the Society. But the allusion to Mr. Caldwell, was founded on the facts well known to Mr. Clay, of his active agency in the organization of the Society, and his unremitting subsequent labours, which were not confined to the District of Columbia, in promoting the cause.

of Free People of Colour, on the Western shores of Africa. He is no more; and the noblest eulogy which could be pronounced on him, would be to inscribe upon his tomb, the merited epitaph, "Here lies the projector of the American Colonization Society." Amongst others, to whom he communicated the project, was the person who now has the honour of addressing you. My first impressions, like those of all who have not fully investigated the subject, were against it. They yielded to his earnest persuasions and my own reflections, and I finally agreed with him that the experiment was worthy of a fair trial. A meeting of its friends was called—organized as a deliberative body, and a Constitution was formed. The Society went into operation. He lived to see the most encouraging progress in its exertions, and died in full confidence of its complete success. The Society was scarcely formed, before it was exposed to the derision of the unthinking; pronounced to be visionary and chimerical by those who were capable of adopting wiser opinions, and the most confident predictions of its entire failure were put forth. It found itself equally assailed by the two extremes of public sentiment, in regard to our African population. According to one, (that rash class which, without a due estimate of the fatal consequence, would forthwith issue a decree of general, immediate, and indiscriminate emancipation,) it was a scheme of the slave holder to perpetuate slavery. The other, (that class which believes slavery a blessing, and which trembles with aspen sensibility, at the appearance of the most distant and ideal danger to the tenure by which that description of property is held,) declared it a contrivance to let loose on society all the slaves of the country, ignorant, uneducated, and incapable of appreciating the value, or enjoying the privileges of freedom.† The Society saw itself surrounded by every sort of embarrassment. What great human enterprise was ever undertaken without difficulty? What ever failed, within the compass of human power, when pursued with perseverance, and blessed by the smiles of Providence? The Society prosecuted, undismayed, its great work, appealing for succour to the moderate, the reasonable, the virtuous, and religious portions of the public. It protested, from the commencement, and throughout all its progress, and it now protests, that it entertains no purpose, on its own authority, or by its own means, to attempt emancipation, partial or general; that it knows the General Government has no Constitutional power to achieve such an object; that it believes that the States,* and the States only, which tolerate slavery, can accomplish the work of emancipation, and that it ought to be left to them, exclusively, absolutely, and voluntarily, to decide the question.

The object of the Society was the colonization of the free coloured people, not the slaves, of the country. Voluntary in its institution, voluntary in its continuance, voluntary in all its ramifications, all its means, purposes, and instruments are also voluntary. But it was said, that no free coloured persons

† A Society of a few individuals, without power, without other resources than those which are supplied by spontaneous benevolence, to emancipate all the slaves of the country!

could be prevailed upon to abandon the comforts of civilized life, and expose themselves to all the perils of a settlement in a distant, inhospitable, and savage country; that, if they could be induced to go on such a quixotic expedition, no territory could be procured for their establishment as a Colony; that the plan was altogether incompetent to effectuate its professed object; and that it ought to be rejected as the idle dream of visionary enthusiasts. The Society has outlived, thank God, all these disastrous predictions. It has survived to swell the list of false prophets. It is no longer a question of speculation, whether a Colony can or cannot be planted from the United States, of free persons of colour, on the shores of Africa. It is a matter demonstrated: such a Colony, in fact, exists, prospers, has made successful war, and honourable peace, and transacts all the multiplied business of a civilized and Christian community.* It now has about five hundred souls, disciplined troops, forts, and other means of defence, sovereignty over an extensive territory, and exerts a powerful and salutary influence over the neighbouring clans.

Numbers of the free African race among us are willing to go to Africa. The Society has never experienced any difficulty on that subject, except that its means of comfortable transportation have been inadequate to accommodate all who have been anxious to migrate. Why should they not go? Here they are in the lowest state of social gradation—aliens—political—moral—social aliens, strangers, though natives. There, they would be in the midst of their friends and their kindred, at home, though born in a foreign land, and elevated above the natives of the country, as much as they are degraded here below the other classes of the community. But on this matter, I am happy to have it in my power to furnish indisputable evidence, from the most authentic source, that of large numbers of free persons of colour themselves. Numerous meetings have been held in several churches in Baltimore, of the free people of colour, in which, after being organized as deliberative assemblies, by the appointment of a chairman (if not of the same complexion) presiding as you, Mr. Vice President, do, and secretaries, they have voted memorials addressed to the white people, in which they have argued the question with an ability, moderation, and temper, surpassing any that I can command, and emphatically recommended the Colony of Liberia to favourable consideration, as the most desirable and practicable scheme ever yet presented on this interesting subject. I ask permission of the Society to read this highly creditable document.

[Here Mr. C. read the memorial referred to.]

The Society has experienced no difficulty in the acquisition of a territory, upon reasonable terms, abundantly sufficient for a most extensive Colony. And land in ample quantities, it has been ascertained, can be procured in Africa, together with all rights of sovereignty, upon conditions as favourable

* See the last Annual Report, and the highly interesting historical sketch of the Rev. Mr. Ashmun.

as those on which the United States extinguish the Indian title to territory within their own limits.

In respect to the alleged incompetency of the scheme to accomplish its professed object, the Society asks that that object should be taken to be, not what the imaginations of its enemies represent it to be, but what it really proposes. They represent, that the purpose of the Society is, to export the whole African population of the United States, bond and free; and they pronounce this design to be unattainable. They declare, that the means of the whole country are insufficient to effect the transportation to Africa of a mass of population approximating to two millions of souls. Agreed; but that is not what the Society contemplates. They have substituted their own notion for that of the Society. What is the true nature of the evil of the existence of a portion of the African race in our population? It is not that there are *some*, but that there are so *many* among us of a different caste, of a different physical, if not moral, constitution, who never can amalgamate with the great body of our population. In every country, persons are to be found varying in their colour, origin, and character, from the native mass. But this anomaly creates no inquietude or apprehension, because the exotics, from the smallness of their number, are known to be utterly incapable of disturbing the general tranquillity. Here, on the contrary, the African part of our population bears so large a proportion to the residue of European origin, as to create the most lively apprehension, especially in some quarters of the Union. Any project, therefore, by which, in a material degree, the dangerous element in the general mass, can be diminished or rendered stationary, deserves deliberate consideration.

The Colonization Society has never imagined it to be practicable, or within the reach of any means which the several Governments of the Union could bring to bear on the subject, to transport the whole of the African race within the limits of the United States. Nor is that necessary to accomplish the desirable objects of domestic tranquillity, and render us one homogeneous people. The population of the United States has been supposed to duplicate in periods of twenty-five years. That may have been the case heretofore, but the terms of duplication will be more and more protracted as we advance in national age; and I do not believe that it will be found, in any period to come, that our numbers will be doubled in a less term than one of about thirty-three and a third years. I have not time to enter now into details in support of this opinion. They would consist of those checks which experience has shown to obstruct the progress of population, arising out of its actual augmentation and density, the settlement of waste lands, &c. Assuming the period of thirty-three and a third, or any other number of years, to be that in which our population will hereafter be doubled, if, during that whole term, the capital of the African stock could be kept down, or stationary, whilst that of European origin should be left to an unobstructed increase, the result, at the end of the term, would be most propitious.—Let us suppose, for example, that the whole population at present of the United States, is

twelve millions, of which ten may be estimated of the Anglo-Saxon, and two of the African race. If there could be annually transported from the United States, an amount of the African portion equal to the annual increase of the whole of that caste, whilst the European race should be left to multiply, we should find at the termination of the period of duplication, whatever it may be, that the relative proportions would be as twenty to two. And if the process were continued, during a second term of duplication, the proportion would be as forty to two—one which would eradicate every cause of alarm or solicitude from the breasts of the most timid. But the transportation of Africans, by creating, to the extent to which it might be carried, a vacuum in society, would tend to accelerate the duplication of the European race, who, by all the laws of population, would fill up the void space.

This Society is well aware, I repeat, that they cannot touch the subject of slavery. But it is no objection to their scheme, limited as it is exclusively to those free people of colour who are willing to migrate, that it admits of indefinite extension and application, by those who alone, having the competent authority, may choose to adopt and apply it. Our object has been to point out the way, to show that colonization is practicable, and to leave it to those States or individuals, who may be pleased to engage in the object, to prosecute it. We have demonstrated that a Colony may be planted in Africa, by the fact that an American Colony there exists. The problem which has so long and so deeply interested the thoughts of good and patriotic men, is solved—a country and a home have been found, to which the African race may be sent, to the promotion of their happiness and our own.

But, Mr. Vice-President, I shall not rest contented with the fact of the establishment of the Colony, conclusive, as it ought to be deemed, of the practicability of our purpose. I shall proceed to show, by reference to indisputable statistical details and calculations, that it is within the compass of reasonable human means. I am sensible of the tediousness of all arithmetical data, but I will endeavour to simplify them as much as possible.—It will be borne in mind that the aim of the Society is to establish in Africa a Colony of the free African population of the United States; to an extent which shall be beneficial both to Africa and America. The whole free coloured population of the United States, amounted in 1790, to 59,481; in 1800, to 110,072; in 1810, to 186,446; and in 1820, to 233,530. The ratio of annual increase during the first term of ten years, was about eight and a half per cent. per annum; during the second, about seven per cent. per annum; and during the third, a little more than two and a half. The very great difference in the rate of annual increase, during those several terms, may probably be accounted for by the effect of the number of voluntary emancipations operating with more influence upon the total smaller amount of free coloured persons at the first of those periods, and by the facts of the insurrection in St. Domingo, and the acquisition of Louisiana, both of which occurring during the first and second terms, added considerably to the number of our free coloured population.

Of all descriptions of our population, that of the free coloured, taken in the aggregate, is the least prolific, because of the checks arising from vice and want. During the ten years, between 1810 and 1820, when no extraneous causes existed to prevent a fair competition in the increase between the slave and the free African race, the former increased at the rate of nearly three per cent. per annum, whilst the latter did not much exceed two and a half. Hereafter, it may be safely assumed, and I venture to predict will not be contradicted by the return of the next census, that the increase of the free black population will not surpass two and a half per cent. per annum. Their amount at the last census, being 233,530, for the sake of round numbers, their annual increase may be assumed to be 6000, at the present time. Now, if this number could be annually transported from the United States during a term of years, it is evident that, at the end of that term, the parent capital will not have increased, but will have been kept down at least to what it was at the commencement of the term. Is it practicable then to colonize annually six thousand persons from the United States, without materially impairing or affecting any of the great interests of the United States? This is the question presented to the judgments of the Legislative authorities of our country. This is the whole scheme of the Society. From its actual experience, derived from the expenses which have been incurred in transporting the persons already sent to Africa, the entire average expense of each Colonist, young and old, including passage money and subsistence, may be stated at twenty dollars per head. There is reason to believe that it may be reduced considerably below that sum. Estimating that to be the expense, the total cost of transporting 6000 souls annually, to Africa, would be \$120,000. The tonnage requisite to effect the object, calculating two persons to every five tons (which is the provision of existing law) would be 15,000 tons. But as each vessel could probably make two voyages in the year, it may be reduced to 7,500. And as both our mercantile and military marine might be occasionally employed on this collateral service, without injury to the main object of the voyage, a further abatement might be safely made in the aggregate amount of the necessary tonnage. The navigation concerned in the commerce between the Colony and the United States, (and it already begins to supply subjects of an interesting trade,) might be incidentally employed to the same end.

Is the annual expenditure of a sum no larger than \$120,000, and the annual employment of 7,500 tons of shipping, too much for reasonable exertion, considering the magnitude of the object in view? Are they not, on the contrary, within the compass of moderate efforts?

Here is the whole scheme of the Society—a project which has been pronounced visionary by those who have never given themselves the trouble to examine it, but to which I believe most unbiassed men will yield their cordial assent, after they have investigated it.

Limited as the project is, by the Society, to a Colony to be formed by the free and unconstrained consent of free persons of colour, it is no ob-

jection, but on the contrary, a great recommendation to the plan, that it admits of being taken up and applied on a scale of much more comprehensive utility. The Society knows, and it affords just cause of felicitation, that all or any one of the States which tolerate slavery may carry the scheme of colonization into effect, in regard to the slaves within their respective limits, and thus ultimately rid themselves of an universally acknowledged curse.— A reference to the results of the several enumerations of the population of the United States, will incontestably prove the practicability of its application on the more extensive scale. The slave population of the United States amounted, in 1790, to 697,697; in 1800, to 896,849; in 1810, to 1,191,364; and in 1820, to 1,538,128. The rate of annual increase, (rejecting fractions, and taking the integer to which they make the nearest approach,) during the first term of ten years, was not quite three per cent. per annum; during the second, a little more than three per cent. per annum, and during the third, a little less than three per cent. The mean ratio of increase for the whole period of thirty years, was very little more than three per cent. per annum. During the first two periods, the native stock was augmented by importations from Africa, in those States which continued to tolerate them, and by the acquisition of Louisiana. Virginia, to her eternal honour, abolished the abominable traffic among the earliest acts of her self-government. The last term alone presents the natural increase of the capital unaffected by any extraneous causes. That authorizes, as a safe assumption, that the future increase will not exceed three per cent. per annum. As our population increases, the value of slave labour will diminish, in consequence of the superior advantages in the employment of free labour. And when the value of slave labour shall be materially lessened, either by the multiplication of the supply of slaves beyond the demand, or by the competition between slave and free labour, the annual increase of slaves will be reduced, in consequence of the abatement of the motives to provide for and rear the offspring.

Assuming the future increase to be at the rate of three per cent. per annum, the annual addition to the number of slaves in the United States, calculated upon the return of the last census (1,538,128,) is 46,000. Applying the data which have been already stated and explained, in relation to the colonization of free persons of colour from the United States to Africa, to the aggregate annual increase both bond and free of the African race, and the result will be found most encouraging. The total number of the annual increase of both descriptions, is 52,000. The total expense of transporting that number to Africa, (supposing no reduction of present prices,) would be one million and forty thousand dollars, and the requisite amount of tonnage would be only 130,000 tons of shipping, about one-ninth part of the mercantile marine of the United States. Upon the supposition of a vessel's making two voyages in the year, it would be reduced to one half, 65,000. And this quantity would be still further reduced, by embracing opportunities of incidental employment of vessels belonging both to the mercantile and military marines.

But, is the annual application of \$ 1,040,000, and the employment of 65 or even 130,000 tons of shipping, considering the magnitude of the object, beyond the ability of this country? Is there a patriot, looking forward to its domestic quiet, its happiness and its glory, that would not cheerfully contribute his proportion of the burthen to accomplish a purpose so great and so humane? During the general continuance of the African slave trade, hundreds of thousands of slaves have been, in a single year, imported into the several countries whose laws authorized their admission. Notwithstanding the vigilance of the powers now engaged to suppress the slave trade, I have received information, that in a single year, in the single island of Cuba, slaves equal in amount to one half of the above number of 52,000 have been illicitly introduced. Is it possible that those who are concerned in an infamous traffic, can effect more than the States of this Union, if they were seriously to engage in the good work? Is it credible—is it not a libel upon human nature to suppose, that the triumphs of fraud and violence and iniquity, can surpass those of virtue and benevolence and humanity?

The population of the United States, being, at this time, estimated at about ten millions of the European race, and two of the African, on the supposition of the annual colonization of a number of the latter, equal to the annual increase, of both of its classes, during the whole period necessary to the process of duplication of our numbers, they would, at the end of that period, relatively stand twenty millions for the white, and two for the black portion. But an annual exportation of a number equal to the annual increase, at the beginning of the term, and persevered in to the end of it, would accomplish more than to keep the parent stock standing. The Colonists would comprehend more than an equal proportion of those of the prolific ages. Few of those who had passed that age would migrate. So that the annual increase of those left behind, would continue gradually, but, at first, insensibly, to diminish; and, by the expiration of the period of duplication, it would be found to have materially abated. But it is not merely the greater relative safety and happiness which would, at the termination of that period, be the condition of the whites. Their ability to give further stimulus to the cause of colonization will have been doubled, whilst the subjects on which it would have to operate, will have decreased or remained stationary. If the business of colonization should be regularly continued during two periods of duplication, at the end of the second, the whites would stand to the blacks, as forty millions to not more than two, whilst the same ability will have been quadrupled. Even if colonization should then altogether cease, the proportion of the African to the European race, will be so small, that the most timid may then, for ever, dismiss all ideas of danger from within or without, on account of that incongruous and perilous element in our population.

Further, by the annual withdrawal of 52,000 persons of colour, there would be annual space created for an equal number of the white race. The period, therefore, of duplication of the whites, by the laws which govern population, would be accelerated.

Such, Mr. Vice President, is the project of the Society, and such is the extension and use which may be made of the principle of colonization, in application to our slave population, by those States which are alone competent to undertake and execute it. All, or any one, of the States which tolerate slavery, may adopt and execute it, by co-operation or separate exertion. If I could be instrumental in eradicating this deepest stain upon the character of our country, and removing all cause of reproach on account of it by foreign nations—if I could only be instrumental in ridding of this foul blot that revered State that gave me birth, or that not-less beloved State which kindly adopted me as her son, I would not exchange the proud satisfaction which I should enjoy, for the honour of all the triumphs ever decreed to the most successful conquerer.

Having, I hope, shown that the plan of the Society is not visionary, but rational and practicable; that a Colony does in fact exist, planted under its auspices; that free people are willing and anxious to go; and that the right of soil as well as of Sovereignty may be acquired in vast tracts of country in Africa, abundantly sufficient for all the purposes of the most ample Colony, and at prices almost only nominal, the task which remains to me of shewing the beneficial consequences which would attend the execution of the scheme, is comparatively easy.

Of the utility of a total separation of the two incongruous portions of our population, supposing it to be practicable, none have ever doubted. The mode of accomplishing that most desirable object, has alone divided public opinion. Colonization in Hayti, for a time, had its partizans. Without throwing any impediments in the way of executing that scheme, the American Colonization Society has steadily adhered to its own. The Haytien project has passed away. Colonization beyond the Stony Mountains has sometimes been proposed; but it would be attended with an expense and difficulties far surpassing the African project, whilst it would not unite the same animating motives. There is a moral fitness in the idea of returning to Africa her children, whose ancestors have been torn from her by the ruthless hand of fraud and violence. Transplanted in a foreign land, they will carry back to their native soil the rich fruits of religion, civilization, law and liberty. May it not be one of the great designs of the Ruler of the Universe, (whose ways are often inscrutable by short sighted mortals,) thus to transform an original crime into a signal blessing, to that most unfortunate portion of the Globe. Of all classes of our population, the most vicious is that of the free coloured. It is the inevitable result of their moral, political, and civil degradation. Contaminated themselves, they extend their vices to all around them, to the slaves and to the whites. If the principle of colonization should be confined to them; if a Colony can be firmly established and successfully continued in Africa, which should draw off annually, an amount of that portion of our population equal to its annual increase, much good will be done. If the principle be adopted and applied by the States, whose laws sanction

the existence of slavery, to an extent equal to the annual increase of slaves, still greater good will be done. This good will be felt by the Africans who go, by the Africans who remain, by the white population of our country, by Africa, and by America. It is a project which recommends itself to favour in all the aspects in which it can be contemplated. It will do good in every and any extent in which it may be executed. It is a circle of philanthropy, every segment of which tells and testifies to the beneficence of the whole.

Every emigrant to Africa is a missionary carrying with him credentials in the holy cause of civilization, religion, and free institutions. Why is it that the degree of success of missionary exertions is so limited, and so discouraging to those whose piety and benevolence prompt them? Is it not because the missionary is generally an alien and a stranger, perhaps of a different colour and from a different tribe? There is a sort of instinctive feeling of jealousy and distrust towards foreigners which repels and rejects them in all countries; and this feeling is in proportion to the degree of ignorance and barbarism which prevail. But the African Colonists, whom we send to convert the heathen, are of the same colour, the same family, the same physical constitution. When the purposes of the Colony shall be fully understood, they will be received as long lost brethren restored to the embraces of their friends and their kindred, by the dispensations of a wise Providence.

The Society is reproached for agitating this question. It should be recollected that the existence of free people of colour is not limited to the States only which tolerate slavery. The evil extends itself to all the States, and some of those which do not allow of slavery, (their cities especially) experience the evil in an extent even greater than it exists in the slave States. A common evil confers a right to consider and apply a common remedy. Nor is it a valid objection that this remedy is partial in its operation, or distant in its efficacy. A patient, writhing under the tortures of excruciating disease, asks of his physician to cure him if he can, and, if he cannot, to mitigate his sufferings. But the remedy proposed, if generally adopted and perseveringly applied, for a sufficient length of time, should it not entirely eradicate the disease, will enable the body politic to bear it without danger and without suffering.

We are reproached with doing mischief by the agitation of this question. The Society goes into no household to disturb its domestic tranquillity; it addresses itself to no slaves to weaken their obligations of obedience. It seeks to affect no man's property. It neither has the power nor the will to affect the property of any one, contrary to his consent. The execution of its scheme would augment instead of diminishing the value of the property left behind. The Society, composed of free men, concerns itself only with the free. Collateral consequences, we are not responsible for. It is not this Society which has produced the great moral revolution which the age exhibits. What would they, who thus reproach us, have done? If they would repress all tendencies towards Liberty and ultimate emancipation, they must do more than put down the benevolent efforts of this Society. They must

go back to the era of our Liberty and Independence, and muzzle the cannon which thunders its annual joyous return. They must revive the slave trade with all its train of atrocities. They must suppress the workings of British philanthropy, seeking to meliorate the condition of the unfortunate West Indian slaves. They must arrest the career of South American deliverance from thralldom. They must blow out the moral lights around us, and extinguish that greatest torch of all which America presents to a benighted world, pointing the way to their rights, their liberties, and their happiness. And when they have achieved all these purposes, their work will be yet incomplete. They must penetrate the human soul, and eradicate the light of reason and the love of liberty. Then, and not till then, when universal darkness and despair prevail, can you perpetuate slavery, and repress all sympathies and all humane and benevolent efforts among freemen, in behalf of the unhappy portion of our race who are doomed to bondage.

Our friends, who are cursed with this greatest of human evils, deserve the kindest attention and consideration. Their property and their safety are both involved. But the liberal and candid among them will not, cannot, expect that every project to deliver our country from it is to be crushed, because of a possible and ideal danger.

Animated by the encouragement of the past, let us proceed under the cheering prospects which lie before us. Let us continue to appeal to the pious, the liberal, and the wise. Let us bear in mind the condition of our forefathers, when, collected on the beach of England, they embarked, amidst the scoffings and the false predictions of the assembled multitude, for this distant land; and here, in spite of all the perils of forest and ocean, which they encountered, successfully laid the foundations of this glorious Republic. Undismayed by the prophecies of the presumptuous, let us supplicate the aid of the American Representatives of the people, and redoubling our labours, and invoking the blessings of an all-wise Providence, I boldly and confidently anticipate success. I hope the resolution which I offer will be unanimously adopted.

The resolution submitted by Mr. CLAY, was then considered and adopted.

[Proceedings to be continued in our next number.]

Prospects of the Society.

The Annual Meeting of the Society in the Capitol, on the 20th instant, was one of extraordinary interest, and proved that public opinion has experienced, the year past, an extensive and very favourable change in reference to this Institution.

For every sentiment expressed on this occasion, the Managers do not hold themselves responsible; but it may be proper to say, that their views generally, were presented in a powerful and eloquent manner, and that the proceedings of the meeting appeared to be highly gratifying to a crowded and very intelligent audience.

The time has arrived, when our Friends throughout the Union, are urged, by every consideration which can move the humane, the patriotic, and the religious, to redouble their exertions—to give themselves with invigorated hopes, resolution, and energy, to the great enterprise in which they have embarked,—an enterprise to which Heaven has been propitious,—which has been conducted to a height of promise unlooked for, at this period, by its most sanguine advocates, and which can hardly fail, if wisely and faithfully prosecuted, soon to command the aid of the States and the Nation.

The Nation is indeed beginning to awake in this cause. A State Society has just been formed in Ohio, under auspices the most cheering, and numerous Auxiliary Associations are springing up in the Western Country. The citizens of Maryland appear almost unanimously to give it their sanction. A strong and growing interest in its success is felt both in Virginia and North Carolina. In nearly every State of the Union has our project found powerful and active defenders. As their numbers increase, so also we trust, will their exertions.

We have every reason then to be animated in our holy work. We will continue our appeals to the humane, the candid, the reflecting, and the religious. We will invoke the assistance of the press, and the efforts of the Ministry. Acting without disguise, we invite investigation. Aiming at the accomplishment of an immense good for our Country and for Africa, we desire to effect it only, by means unquestionably virtuous, approved by the Constitution of the Land, and sanctified by the spirit of our Religion. We believe our plans adapted to meet the views of the liberal and sober minded in every section of the Union. We have assumed ground upon which the citizens of the South and the North may associate themselves for a strictly national as well as philanthropic purpose.—This we regard as the peculiar recommendation of our scheme. In its execution, we desire that all feelings may be sup-

pressed but those which we ought to cherish as members of a great Republic, the interests of which are undivided, and will, we hope, be ever seen identified with the justice and freedom of her institutions, and the magnanimity of her deeds.

Missions to Africa.

We are happy to learn that the Episcopal Foreign Missionary Society in Philadelphia, have determined to send a Missionary to Liberia, and that they have adequate funds in their possession, which have been contributed especially for this object. We trust they will not remain long unapplied. The subsequent article from the *Church Register*, will show the vast importance of affording a suitable education to such young men of colour as may be disposed to devote themselves to the Christian Ministry in Africa.

Missionaries to Africa.—At a late meeting of the Executive Committee of the General Missionary Society, Bishop White, the President, laid before the Committee the following letter, a copy of which has also been received by the late Secretary of the Society. The letter was referred to a sub-committee, which had at the same time under consideration the application of a coloured individual to be sent to Liberia as a Missionary. This committee, anxious that the wishes of their brethren in England may be promptly and efficiently met, are induced to publish the letter at length, that the attention of the members, and more particularly of the Clergy of our Church, may be drawn to the pious object. It may be proper to state, that those only can enter upon this mission with a well founded prospect of persevering in usefulness, whose constitutions are adapted measurably to the climate, by residence in the low lands of the Southern States. Information of any suitable individuals, is earnestly solicited, and may be communicated to the Rev. George Weller, Secretary of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, Philadelphia.

JACKSON KEMPFR, C. C.

Jan. 22d, 1827.

CHURCH MISSIONARY HOUSE,
London, Oct. 25, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR: The Committee of the Church Missionary Society having lost many valuable lives in Africa, have turned their attention to a supply of teachers better fitted than Europeans to encounter the insalubrity of its climate. They have been strongly recommended to endeavour to procure persons of colour for this service; and have been led to suppose that there may be many such in America, who have the requisite piety, talent, and knowledge to fit them for such an office.

Their duty would be the religious instruction of the liberated Africans congregated in Sierra Leone, from all parts of Africa. For this purpose, the person to be employed, must be well acquainted with the English language, and able to read, write, and speak it correctly. They must also possess a good knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and cordially approve of the Articles and Liturgy of the Church of England, and be willing to conform to them in their whole conduct. But the most important qualification for this service is, intelligent, decided, and matured piety, with a sound judgment, and a heart devoted to God, clearly holding the doctrines peculiar to the Gospel, and longing to make them known as widely as possible.

We shall be much obliged, if you will inform us whether there be in your knowledge any persons of this description, who would be willing to devote themselves wholly to labour in Africa to diffuse the Gospel.

It might not probably be difficult for such persons to obtain ordination from the Bishop of the sister Church in America, before they left America.

Such persons should pledge themselves to submit to the directions of the Society, as to the stations in which they may labour, and their general conduct.

The remuneration of their services, would be sufficient for their comfortable support; but, on this point, and any other connected with the design, we shall be glad to have your full and free sentiments.

I am, Dear Sir, faithfully yours,

EDWARD BICKERSTETH,

Sec. C. M. Society.

Rt. Rev. BISHOP WHITE, &c. &c. &c.

Sierra Leone in 1825.

[FROM THE NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.]

Sierra Leone may be considered with reference both to its internal condition, and to its effects upon the neighbouring natives.

Its internal prosperity will of course depend on its healthiness; on the progress made in the settlement of the liberated Negroes, and in inducing them to adopt the restraints and habits of civilization; on the state of schools and religion; and on the successful prosecution of agriculture and commerce.

The mortality of 1823 at Sierra Leone, though of a most distressing nature, has been much exaggerated. The fever which prevailed did not attack a Black or Coloured person; but of a White population of 110, the deaths were 25. The accounts, during the last year, represent the Colony as being very healthy. Serious injury, however, arises to its interests from the occasional prevalence of severe sickness; and in no respect more, than by the temporary interruption to which the advancement of education and religious instruction has been exposed, in consequence of the death of their principal instructors, among whom the mortality was unusually great. The effect of these unexpected losses was, that for a considerable period both properly qualified schoolmasters and also chaplains had been wanting. But the Church Missionary Society, which has now taken off the hands of the Government the burden of supplying to the Colony the means of religious instruction, has been making great efforts to supply the requisite number of teachers; and their zeal, and that of their missionaries, has only been rendered more remarkable and praiseworthy, by the difficulties with which they had to contend.

The regular attendance on public worship consists of nearly the whole population of the Colony, and the schools are attended by the whole of the young, and even by not a few of the adults; many of whom, however, think themselves too old to learn, or object, after the labour of the day, to spending an hour or two in school. The missionaries who are engaged in the work of instruction occasionally, lament the slow progress by which the human character, when once degraded, can be raised up to take its proper place in society. Yet this rate, is usually so very gradual, even under the most favourable circumstances, that it is impor-

tant, with a view to prevent unreasonable expectations and consequent disappointment, that the fact should be thoroughly understood and acknowledged. The means, however, are in active operation, which alone are proper and competent for promoting the great work of civilization.

Sierra Leone contains about 18,000 inhabitants; of whom, about 12,000 consist entirely of liberated Africans, who for the most part occupy the parishes in the mountains: and nothing can be more gratifying than to know, that the almost impenetrable woods which were the haunts but lately of wild beasts, have been replaced by villages with comfortable habitations, and surrounded by tracts of ground under cultivation, and containing school-houses for both sexes. In one of these, it is reported that, out of 103 children, 64 can read the Scriptures; in others, that out of 1,079 scholars, there are 710 persons who can read, and so on in different proportions. The churches erected among them are said to have crowded congregations; one in Regent's Town usually assembling a congregation of from 1,200 to 2,000 souls.

The Missionaries have already more than they can adequately perform in their proper department. They have the superintendence of those schools, where the liberated slaves, coming from different countries and speaking different languages, may, upon their release, make the first beginning towards becoming really members of the same community, by acquiring a knowledge of English as a common tongue. The Church Missionary Society has undertaken the further task of seeking to fix the African language, and prepare elementary books (which has already been done for the Susoos and the Bulloms) with the view of training native teachers, as the most efficient instruments for extending the Christian Religion among the native tribes.

In the Sherbro country, two private individuals have collected boys from various places on that part of the coast, and are giving them the rudiments of English education.

The timber trade, in which the natives in the river Sierra Leone have engaged (with an alacrity and perseverance which shew that their industry only wants an object and adequate security to develop itself,) in 1823 furnished 15,000 loads for the British market, and, in the last year, a considerably larger supply. The freight alone on the shipments of last year, would probably

amount to £ 100,000. The invoice value of the cargoes imported into the Colony in 1823 was £ 121,442 18s. 11d.; the duty paid on them was £ 8,483 2s. 11d. The exports consisted of ship-building timber, camwood, palm oil, elephants' teeth, gold dust, gum copal, bees-wax, rice, and Malaguetta pepper. The gum trade has been increasing on the Gambia; and the value of the different articles independent of gum, as hides, bees-wax, gold, ivory, and timber, exported from the Gambia during the year, is stated at £ 125,000.

Emigration to Liberia.

The Brig Doris will sail immediately for the African Colony, with from eighty to ninety passengers. Ten of these are from Baltimore, the rest from Virginia and North Carolina. The Society of Friends in North Carolina, have generously contributed eight hundred dollars towards this expedition, and about half the emigrants are of the free coloured people who have been under their special guardianship and protection. The whole number who now embark are represented as industrious and promising; and individuals among them are prepared to be eminently useful in Liberia. One has been long respected as a teacher of his own class in Baltimore, and it is expected will engage in the same employment in the Colony. Many others in Baltimore and elsewhere, are anxious to take their departure, and we trust, that our friends will co-operate with us, in obtaining the funds to fit out a much larger expedition early in the approaching summer, which, according to the decided opinion of the Colonial Agent, will be found the best time for an arrival in Africa.

Opinion of the Legislature of Kentucky.

We have seen nothing more gratifying than the following Resolutions. May the Almighty inspire every Legislature of our Union with the same patriotic and magnanimous sentiments.

IN SENATE, JAN. 16,

Mr. Carneal, from the select committee to whom was referred

the memorial of the Colonization Society, for colonizing the free people of colour on the coast of Africa, submitted a report, concluding with the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

"Resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That they view with deep and friendly interest, the exertions of the American Colonization Society, in establishing an Asylum on the coast of Africa, for the free people of colour of the United States: and that the Senators and Representatives in Congress from this state, be, and they are hereby requested, to use their efforts to facilitate the removal of such free persons of colour as may desire to emigrate from the United States to the Colony of Africa, and to insure to them the protection and patronage of the General Government, so far as shall be deemed consistent with the safety and interest of the United States.

"Resolved, That the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress."

Manumissions.

Mr. William Fletcher, of Perquimans, N. C. was lost in the schooner Perquimans at sea, recently. His will has just been opened, which provides that his slaves, 12 in number, shall, after the ensuing year, be emancipated; during which time they are to be hired out, for the purpose of raising funds to defray the expenses of sending them to Hayti or Liberia, which ever they may choose.

Mr. Funston, of Frederick county, Virginia, by his last will and testament, requests, that ten of his slaves shall be liberated, with the special desire that they may be located in the American Colony in Africa. He also appropriates the sum of one thousand dollars for their comfortable establishment there.

These, and numerous other instances which are occurring almost daily, show the immense importance of the African Colony,

regarded as an asylum for such slaves as humane masters may be disposed to liberate, and how numerous will be the instances of emancipation, provided it shall be connected with colonization in Liberia.

Masonic Charity.

We have been gratified by a perusal of the Report of the Committee of the Winder Lodge, No. 77 (Baltimore,) to which was assigned the duty of communicating with Lodges throughout the State of Maryland and elsewhere, on the subject of contributing to the *American Colonization Society*. It appears that the circular letter of the Committee has been widely circulated, and "the different Lodges, as far as known to the Committee, have, without a single exception, joined in its views; and where money could not be given, sent prayers and good wishes, to aid the great scheme of African Colonization on the principles of masonic benevolence. Mount Moriah Lodge of Hagerstown, appointed a Committee of its most distinguished members, which, in an able and lucid view of the subject, concurred with the Winder Lodge, and made a similar donation (\$20.) The Lodge at Princess Ann, without hesitation, gave the same sum, and sent a copy of the Resolution making the donation. The Lodge at Georgetown, D. C. like Cumberland Lodge, could only send its good wishes, and its concurrence in the plan. Cassia Lodge, in Baltimore, gave thirty dollars. A distant Lodge in Pennsylvania, and another in Maine, have also generously contributed to the same object." The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, possessing a fund of fifty thousand dollars, have the subject under consideration, and it is hoped may appropriate liberally in its behalf. The concluding passage of the Report of the Committee, we publish with great pleasure:

"But this is not all—the humble effort of Winder Lodge has moved more important councils than those which are usually assembled under the eye of the Master; and so far as approbation is reward, each member of the Lodge is paid by the unanimous vote of thanks which was passed to the masons, on motion of the Grand Chaplain of the District of Columbia, at the late anniversary meeting of the *American Colonization Society*. When the motion was made, it was seconded by a mason from New England,* who appeared there as speaking the sentiments of the fraternity in that part of the Union. He stated, that he and those around him had, at first, doubted the propriety of making the appropriation, which Winder Lodge had done, to the novel

* Mr. Knapp, P. D. G. H. P.

purpose proposed. Doubt led to investigation, and the importance of the subject made this investigation severe. It resulted in a complete conviction of the propriety of the measure, and the brother from New England did honour both to himself and to the order, by the eloquence with which, before an audience consisting of the members of both houses of Congress, and the representatives of nations at Washington, he advocated the plan first proposed in this Lodge, and supported the principles here first asserted.

If an air of pride pervades the report of the Committee, and any should be inclined to smile at the apparent arrogance of the assumptions here made, let it be remembered, that on our long list of principles we recognize neither pride nor arrogance, and that, therefore, to suppose them, would be uncharitable and unjust. The warm feelings of satisfaction must at times express themselves, even though they break through that frigid restraint which the fear of egotism imposes; and with the expression of satisfaction at having projected a great plan of benevolence none surely can find fault."

Memorial to Congress.

The Memorial of the American Colonization Society to the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, has been referred to a select committee of seven members, and with the last Annual Report of the Society has been printed. After considerable debate, the same Memorial has been laid on the table in the Senate, and we entertain the strongest hopes of ultimate success in our application to the National Government.

Contributions to the American Colonization Society omitted in former Repositories.

Auxiliary Society of Lynchburg, March, 1826,	\$ 15 00
Liberian Society of young ladies at Mrs. Garnett's school, Virginia,	
April 3d, 1826,	30 00
Collections by Rev. R. R. Gurley, in the northern cities, omitted in	
Repository for December, 1826,	12 00
Miss Ann G. Gibson, of Culpepper co. Va. per W. F. Gray, Esq.	10 00
Rev. Doct. Milner, of New-York, per Mr. Kennedy,	20 00
Collections in Rev. M. Pomeroy's church, Bangor, Maine, per Mr.	
Daniel Pike,	36 55
Carried forward,	\$ 123 55

	<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$123 55
Charles Dresser, Milwood, Va.	- - - - -	5 00
Doctor N. Jewett, Washington,	- - - - -	50
D. Wolf, Bristol, R. I.	- - - - -	1 00
Collections in Congregational church, Hudson, Portage co. Ohio,		
per Rev. Wm. Humford,	- - - - -	20 00
The Society of Friends, N. C. per Nathan Mendenhall,	- - - - -	500 00
Donations of individuals about Union Town, Pa. per D. Zollickoff,	- - - - -	20 00
David Hale, Esq. of Boston, per Jennings and Thomas of Philadel-		
phia, for collections,	- - - - -	290 00
Repository,	- - - - -	60 80
Miss Christian and Miss Judith Blackburn of Charlestown, Va. pro-		
ceeds of a missionary box,	- - - - -	10 00
Mrs. Eliza Blackburn, proceeds of do.	- - - - -	5 00
Miss Judith Blackburn, additional,	- - - - -	1 00
Proceeds of work done by the Young Ladies' Sunday School		
Teachers' Fund, Frederick co. Md. per P. G. Thomas, Esq.	- - - - -	10 00
John T. Norton, Esq. of Albany, New-York,	- - - - -	50 00
Thomas P. Wilson, Esq. of Montgomery co. Maryland,	- - - - -	10 00
Mr. Paine, in April, 1826,	- - - - -	60 00
		<hr/>
		\$1,166 85

*Contributions from January 5th to February 3d,
1827, inclusive.*

A friend in Alexandria,	- - - - -	5 00
Auxiliary Society of Winchester, Va. per O. Waite, Esq.	- - - - -	49 74
do. Augusta, Va. per J. Cowan, Esq.	- - - - -	60 00
do. Rockbridge, Va. per J. F. Carnthers, Esq.	- - - - -	50 00
do. Richmond and Manchester, Va. per B. Brand,		
Esq. treasurer,	- - - - -	120 00
John Croes, Esq. a yearly subscription,	- - - - -	5 00
A Gentleman,	- - - - -	1 00
Collections in Presbyterian Church, St. Clairsville, Ohio, per Hon.		
B. S. Ruggles,	- - - - -	13 00
Rev. Mr. Harrison,	- - - - -	2 00
Mrs. Maynadier, of Annapolis,	- - - - -	5 00
John Patterson, Esq. of Baltimore, per J. C. Herbert, Esq.	- - - - -	100 00
Mary Mendenhall, Treasurer of the society of women Friends in the		
neighbourhood of James Town, N. C.	- - - - -	50 00
Repository,	- - - - -	31 00
		<hr/>
		\$1,658 59

*Donations received by the Rev. Myron Tracy, and included
in the amount remitted by Mr. Hale, of Boston.*

Contributions of Newbury, Vermont,	-	-	-	-	\$ 7 13
do. Bradford, do.	-	-	-	-	3 51
do. Oxford, N. H. 1st Con. Soc.	-	-	-	-	5 00
do. do. do. 2d do.	-	-	-	-	8 61
Individuals of Sharon, Vt.	-	-	-	-	1 92
Contributions of Weathersfield, Vt.	-	-	-	-	5 02
do. Lyme, N. H.	-	-	-	-	10 21
do. Hartford, Vermont, N. P.	-	-	-	-	11 85
Individuals of Westborough, Mass.	-	-	-	-	55 21
Contributions of Brookfield, Mass. S. P.	-	-	-	-	7 15
do. Mon. Con. Western, Mass.	-	-	-	-	3 93
do. North Brookfield, Mass.	-	-	-	-	13 00
Individuals, W. P. Brookfield, Mass.	-	-	-	-	10 26
do. Oakham, Mass.	-	-	-	-	12 26
Contributions of New Braintree, Mass.	-	-	-	-	15 17
Individuals of Ware Factory Village, Mass.	-	-	-	-	38 52
Contributions of Rev. Mr. Going's society, Worcester, Mass.	-	-	-	-	12 00
do. Rev. Dr. Bancroft's do. do. do.	-	-	-	-	27 72
do. Rev. Mr. Hoadley's do. do. do.	-	-	-	-	15 00
do. Southborough, Mass.	-	-	-	-	4 22
do. Leicester, Mass.	-	-	-	-	39 50
do. Paxton, do.	-	-	-	-	15 57
do. Holden, do.	-	-	-	-	41 64
do. Rutland, do.	-	-	-	-	22 06
do. Templeton, do.	-	-	-	-	36 61
do. Philipston, do.	-	-	-	-	26 50
do. Hardwick, do.	-	-	-	-	14 20
do. Barre, do.	-	-	-	-	9 71
do. Millbury, do.	-	-	-	-	25 65
Donation of a female, do.	-	-	-	-	20 00
Contributions of Mendon, do.	-	-	-	-	17 44
do. Ward, do. 4th July,	-	-	-	-	8 62
do. Grafton, do. 4th July,	-	-	-	-	25 24
Individuals of Princeton, do.	-	-	-	-	31 27
do. Hubbardston, do.	-	-	-	-	13 42
A friend of Uxbridge, do.	-	-	-	-	3 00
S. Denny, Oakham, do.	-	-	-	-	1 00
F. Leavitt, Esq. Hartford, Vt.	-	-	-	-	1 00
Individuals of Northborough, do. \$ 20 of which, from Mr. Asaph Rice, to be appropriated to the transportation of one who shall be liberated from slavery for that purpose,	-	-	-	-	102 46

\$712 37